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Dabiturque licentia sumpta pudenter.
Horace.

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I.

On the Connexion between Natural History and Medicine.

That medicine has an intimate connexion with the natural sciences, is a truth fully confirmed by its past history and its present situation. And it is indeed, in a considerable degree, owing to this circumstance, that it maintains such a high and justly celebrated reputation. The number and extent of the branches auxiliary to medicine, and the importance of a knowledge of these to a correct discharge of medical duties—their salutary influence upon the mind, and the benefits which they confer upon the world at large, have conspired to place physicians in the foremost rank of the *savans* of the age.

Medicine, like all the other sciences, was of humble origin. Confined as were the early physicians to a knowledge of a few simples, which were supplied by the hand of nature, their means of removing diseases must have been extremely limited. Botany first came to their aid; it shed the first ray of light upon medicine. Indeed these two sciences may be considered

as coeval. In their infancy they were intimitately connected with each other: the chief object of the former having been that of ascertaining the medical properties of plants; and that of the latter, the administration of these plants during the existence of disease.

Amongst the Egyptians and Grecians, medicine did not receive that attention which might have been expected, when we consider the degree of civilization and refinement which they had attained, and their proficiency in the other arts and sciences. Of the latter, Hippocrates appears to have been the only individual who made any considerable contributions to the science. He was the only star to illumine the path of the traveller during a long and dreary night. The writings of this celebrated personage, justly styled the "Father of Medicine," bear ample testimony to the benefits to be derived from natural history, and to its cultivators he was largely indebted for the extension of his knowledge of remedial agents.

Although botany has ever been paying its tribute to medicine, its influence became perhaps more apparent about the middle of the last century. It had, for a long time previous, been burthened and obscured with technicalities, and its advances to perfection were sluggish in the extreme. Every few years presented a new system of classification; and this state of things served only to increase confusion, and perpetuate error. It is often the work of an age to effect a revolution, even when its advantages are apparent; and how much longer time must be required to accomplish such an object, when its benefits are doubtful. Then how much disorder is the consequence! A great proportion adhere to the old system—a few embrace the new; and thus, on account of its limited adoption, the advantages which might otherwise be derived from either, are completely lost. Such unfortunately was the effect which these incessant changes and revolutions produced upon the science of botany; and this is the reason, that, until the appearance of Linnæus, it was of very limited utility either to medicine or to any of the other sciences.

Among the many improvements which this celebrated reformer of science introduced, the attempt at a natural classification of plants, founded chiefly upon their medicinal properties, had perhaps the most salutary effect upon our profession. It may be considered as the basis of vegetable materia medica; and to it the recent works on this subject owe much of their utility. The great general principles upon which this classification depends, are such as have indicated many important additions to the list of vegetable remedies. Hence, then, the value of botanical knowledge; for, without it, these substances can scarcely be identified, far less accurately described.

In reviewing the advantages derived by medicine from the natural sciences, I come next to a notice of chemistry.

During the eleventh and twelfth centuries, the materia medica was greatly enriched by the accidental discoveries of the alchemists. Their attention, it is true, was chiefly directed to the transmutation of metals, or the discovery of the philosopher's stone; but they also devoted intense study and industry to the discovery of an universal panacea, by which they vainly imagined not only disease, but death itself, should be subdued. In this vain pursuit, every article which was suspected of possessing medicinal properties, was examined; and it is not surprising, therefore, that many valuable facts should have been brought to light. Indeed, all the wisdom and ingenuity of the age were directed to alchemy, and whatever progress was made in the arts and sciences, may be ascribed to its agency.

After the foundations of chemical science were laid in Europe by Roger Bacon, medicine was much improved by his discoveries and those of his cotemporaries. The unbounded sway which their theories maintained during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, is a proof of the high estimation in which they were held by the physicians of those times. Even the coarseness and vulgarity of Paracelsus, and the immorality of many of his precepts, did not diminish the number of the disciples of the reigning philosophy.

Guided by the principles of chemistry, the practice of this extraordinary individual was characterized by an energy and boldness which not only ensured success, but gained for him and his opinions a widely disseminated popularity aud fame; and which place him in an enviable station among the promoters of the healing art.

Although the theories of the chemical school, so far as they referred to the explanation of the phenomena of physiology, were destined soon to fall before those of the mechanicians and metaphysicians, the most valuable medicines were continually discovered in the laboratory. Indeed, from the time of Bacon to the present day, chemistry has been the handmaid of medicine. Nor could it be otherwise; for this sublime science, so copious in its resources, explores the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms, and deduces from each the most valuable remedies.

The importance of a knowledge of chemistry to the physician, is manifest at almost every step of his career. The phenomena of physiology and pathology—the operation of medicines—their salutary or deleterious effects—are frequently not otherwise to be explained than by a reference to its principles.

Nor is a knowledge of the animal kingdom less intimately connected with medicine, or less deserving of the attention of the cultivators of our art. Independently of the important remedial agents derived from it, the most interesting physiological and pathological facts have been discovered by zoological investigations; and this, I think, will be made apparent by a recurrence to the past.

After the visionary speculations of the chemists and mechanicians had in a measure passed away, physicians began to assume a more correct principle; viz. that of determining the powers of medicinal substances by experiment. It is true, their application of it was at first alike erroneous and unphilosophical. During the prevalence of the humoral pathology, these experiments were tried upon the fluids taken out of the body. But when we consider what changes the fluids un-

dergo when separated from the solids; when without the influence of the vital principle; when indeed they are mere inorganic matter; we are amazed that such a course of investigation should have occupied for a moment, the attention of reflecting minds.

The various modes of experimenting, which succeeded the above, were in a great measure free from objections. It would be foreign to my present purpose to notice all these in detail; and I shall only advert to the utility of experiments tried upon brute animals. I know it has been urged that these cannot be depended on with certainty in settling the powers of medicinal substances, upon the ground, that different animals are variously affected by the same articles, and that many substances which are poisonous to animals, are innocuous when applied to the human system, and vice versa. But these facts might perhaps be considered as so many proofs of our want of knowledge, and so many inducements to zoological researches. Be this as it may, it must be conceded, that we are indebted to this mode of inquiry for many additions to the materia medica. It naturally suggests itself, as the only method by which we can learn any thing of the effects of a new or poisonous substance. The records of medicine sufficiently attest its value, and it need scarcely be remarked, that it cannot be pursued with any prospect of beneficial results, without some knowledge of the animal which is the subject of experiment.

In the review of these few desultory remarks, we become deeply impressed with the extensiveness of the science of medicine. We can form some idea of the numerous branches of knowledge which have at different times been made tributary to it, and which have been gradually, though constantly contributing to its improvement. But these are not unfrequently lost in the distance. We are too apt to look upon medicine, as upon a splendid edifice, without taking into account the different parts of which it is composed. This begets a disregard, and an undervaluing of many branches of study, which have conferred, and are conferring the most signal

benefits upon it. One vents his wrath upon chemistry, denounces it as unworthy the attention of one who would arrive at eminence as a physician; forgetting, while he utters this denunciation, how largely he is indebted to this science for the respectability of his profession, and for the reputation which he himself has acquired. Another tells you of the folly of indulging in botanical pursuits, which he asserts have not the least relation to medicine, while at the same time he may be in the daily administration of numerous remedies, for which he is indebted solely to botanical investigation. Such a course of conduct is an evidence of weakness, I had almost said, of a total want of intellect. The individual who adopts it, may be found resorting to every means to ensure a mere success in practice, and even uniting with the vulgar herd in the outcry against science and learning; regardless that it is from this very science and learning of which our profession can boast, that he derives the atom of consequence which he supports. Deluded, ignorant man! he kindles a flame which he cannot quench, and by his conduct brings reproach upon the whole profession.

But while I hold this language, let me not be understood to undervalue the importance of *clinical observations*. These are absolutely necessary to the physician, and they should occupy most of his time and attention. It is an evidence of the greatest folly, or the most unpardonable ignorance, to treat them with disrespect, or to assert, as has been done, that it is from the cultivation of natural history alone, that we are to expect the future improvement of the profession.* Such an assertion at once indicates the *genus* to which its author belongs, and shields him from serious notice.

The old maxim, 'that truth lies between the extremes,' is peculiarly applicable in the present instance. In avoiding Scylla we must not run upon Charybdis. I am well aware, that it is natural for those who become enamoured of a par-

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* Atlantic Magazine, Vol. II. p. 314.

ticular science or pursuit to imagine that this is alone worthy the attention of intelligent beings; and this may account in some degree for the contrariety of opinion to which I have adverted.

A question of some importance then arises, viz.: how is natural history to be pursued in reference to medicine? This I shall endeavour to answer on a future occasion.

L.

II.

A "BREVIAT" *of Dr. Moses Younglove's treatment of the* SMALL-POX.

[COMMUNICATED.]

"City of Hudson, Feb. 12, 1825.

"SIR,

"I received your kind letter of the 27th ult., for which I thank you. Sickly and very old as I am, I have nearly lost all the little capacity I have ever had for writing, as well as for practice in my profession; in this situation I was, when last fall the small-pox spread near me in several parts, somewhat varied in its appearance; but requiring the same treatment as formerly, several of our younger practitioners, who, from the long absence of it, had no practical knowledge of its treatment, were induced, in consequence, to urge my writing, and suffering to be printed and distributed. My very little and imperfect hand-bill, and I mending a little in health, have since, at their request, in a second edition, enlarged it as annexed. To the deference they paid me in these instances, I can pretend no other claim, excepting their knowledge of my having had more and longer practice in that disorder, than any other living man that we know of; and that singular as my treatment of it was, it met with remarkable success and commendation, and it is now the opinion with which I am flattered by some older physicians of note, that there are some remarks in this my crude bill, which ought not to be

buried with me. If you should also be of that opinion, I would invite you to a re-perusal of a communication of mine, on the like subject in the Med. Repos. Vol. VI. hexade first, and also to make any use of this bill which you shall think proper.

"Respectfully yours,

"MOSES YOUNGLOVE.

"To Dr. Felix Pascalis."

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"Persons having been exposed to the small-pox, and putting themselves on preparation for that disorder, should be treated like those that are inoculated.

"Very few inoculated persons, who are in tolerable health, need any medical preparation. But when such necessity occurs, the medical means should be applied as early as possible in the preparatory course.

"The course of diet ought to be good milk, chocolate, tea, coffee, and the like, with other bland and nutritious food, sufficient to preserve their strength nearly entire. They should avoid the use of cider, wine, spirits, pepper, and all such heating substances, and salted meats; eat but little of meat of any kind, and be moderate in the use of butter. They should avoid all extremes of heat, cold, and wet, and keep themselves a little cooler than at other times.

"During the symptomatic complaints, patience and fortitude are, in almost every case, the only proper remedies, avoiding the fire, and all unnecessary heat, and all violent exercise.

"At this stage the stomach, as well as other parts, will frequently be disagreeably affected, but must not, by any means, be treated as in similar distresses of that organ in other common disorders. On the contrary, experience and observation will confirm it as an axiom, that there is no analogy between them. Medicines of emetic, cathartic, or laxative tendency are then no more safe or curative than they would be in the case of a person, otherwise well, agonizing under tortures of the stomach from protracted famine: *for*

the only relief of these symptomatic distresses is by eruption in its due time, the alarming delay of which is, under proper treatment, very rare. But when it occurs, whether in the natural or inoculated disorder, relief must be attempted by keeping the patient as warm as in other diseases would be proper, and keeping the apartment well ventilated. Good new milk is, in this case, the best diet, if it can be relished, as commonly it can ; but if it cannot, then warm milk-gruel, or warm chocolate, (with the addition of something of the bread kind) is a far better diet than any soups, broths, or other cookery made of butcher's meat, fowl, or fish. If some such nutriment cannot be borne by the stomach, then flour sulphur given in the proportion of a small tea-spoonful, to an adult, is the most effectual promoter of eruption, and consequent relief. This, in some extraordinary cases, must be repeatedly given at intervals of several hours ; and should the incapacity of the stomach, in any considerable degree, yet remain, let the milk be given in the way of milk-toddy, and when the eruption is sufficiently excited and apparent, the simple new milk will rarely be refused, *after which the aspect of the pock will be a sure index of the state of the stomach.*

" But the utmost judgment and caution are necessary not to force an eruption too soon, lest you needlessly multiply it ; nor to drive it by stimulus too much in its farther progress, lest unnecessary pain and tumour be induced.

" The greater the eruption, the more milk should, if possible, be taken, especially on the third day of its appearance, and onward ; for, if profuse, it can never be well filled without some kind of moist nourishment in sufficient quantity, and no other is equal to the milk, which is medicine as well as food and drink. *Other medicine and drinks, however stimulant they may be, are sufficient to fill the pock with purulent matter —nutriment in due abundance must do it, or nothing will.*

" If the above is correct, nauseating drugs and lax bowels are improper in most cases of the small-pox, and I may add, that in difficult cases, they, by their disheartening and debilitating effects, frequently retard eruption in a dangerous

degree, or exceedingly multiply it, with a measly aspect, when it at length appears; and in a farther stage tend to its retrogression, or at least are an obstruction to its due filling, by preventing the reception, retention, and digestion of the necessary quantity of food and drink.—These sentiments are in opposition to old books, and to a too general practice; but to me it is evident, that a practice the reverse of that inculcated in this paragraph, and in my first above remarks on the treatment of the stomach, has slain its thousands.

"It will be perceived that the remarks in the last paragraph apply only to difficult cases, where a very profuse or unfavourable eruption has appeared, or, from the symptoms, is apprehended. But when the symptoms are of no extraordinary duration or portent, or when there is an eruption, and state, as to health, no way very unpromising, very little management is necessary. The cool system, with its appropriate abstemious regimen, should be continued, and a too costive habit removed in the gentlest way.

"I have thus confidently recommended a free use of new milk, as above, from my own long and happy experience of its adaptation to the stomach of the patient in most cases, as well as of its nutritive and medicinal effects in the same; and it is well worthy of remark, that in difficult cases of persons poisoned or snake-bitten, it is likewise medicinal, and acceptable to the stomach; and that in these cases, as in many of the former, acid medicines and drinks are disrelished and injurious. Hence, and from every relative circumstance, I am convinced that practitioners, in treating the small-pox, may more profitably by far assimilate their measures to those proper in many cases of poisons, than to those proper in common fevers, &c., to which the small-pox is, in its nature and proper treatment, entirely opposite, as is evinced by the very general and lamentable result when any person who, at unawares, is taken ill with the symptoms of that disease in the natural way, is, of course, treated by his physician as is usual in the incipient stages of other fevers. From evident facts of this kind long observed, the reason is, to me, explained, why

prudent nurses of long experience in the small-pox, when they have happened, in dangerous cases of that disorder, to fail of any professional advice or aid, have very generally succeeded far better in saving the life of the patient by a treatment dictated by their own experience and reason, than when guided by the most accomplished physician, whose attention had not been so long and so generally called to that disorder as to have observed the absolute necessity of treating it on a plan very distinct from, and, in dangerous cases, opposite to his habitual practice in other common ailments, *a distinction which is, I believe, very imperfectly noticed in any treatise extant.*

M. Y.

"City of Hudson, Feb. 1825."

REVIEW.

ART. I. ESSAI *sur la Fièvre Jaune d'Amérique, ou considérations sur les causes, les symptômes, la nature, et le traitement de cette maladie; avec l'histoire de l'épidemie de la Nouvelle Orleans en* 1822, *et le résultat de nouvelles récherches d'anatomie pathologiques, entreprises pour en déterminer le siège.* Par P. F. THOMAS, Ex-chirurgien, &c. &c. Précédée de considérations Hygieniques sur la Nouvelle Orleans, par J. M. PICORNELL, &c. &c. A la Nouvelle Orleans. 1823. pp. 140. 8vo.

IT is not often that a medical book, written in French, is published in our country. This circumstance can, however, excite no surprise, when the small number of foreigners residing amongst us is taken into consideration. But it does somewhat raise our wonder, that few as these instances are, they should not be more generally noticed by the periodical jour-

nals of the day. This omission is not to be accounted for certainly on the supposition that the conductors of our journals are ignorant of foreign languages, at least of the French. From their own showing, it is very apparent that they do not labour under this egregious defect; and some other cause, then, such as neglect, or perhaps ignorance of the existence of such publications, must be taken into the account. Whatever the cause may be, the effect is to be deplored; for, let the merit of these publications be what it may, they should not be overlooked, if not for their own sake, at least for that of the profession at large. The acquaintance possessed by our medical brethren with the French and other foreign languages, is by far too limited; and the importance of extending it is so evident, and so great withal, that no means should be left untried of effecting so laudable and desirable an object. At the present day, more especially, when all that is most valuable in pathological medicine, and in physiological anatomy, is contained in the extensive and original writings of French physicians, a knowledge of their language is indispensable to every medical student who is ambitious of keeping pace with the constant progression and the ample extension of these sciences. Reasons nearly if not altogether as urgent demand the acquisition of the German and Italian languages. The subject is however so well understood, that it is unnecessary to pursue it further.

The present volume is dedicated to our fellow-citizen Dr. Pascalis, than whom, the writer justly observes, no one is more capable, from his long acquaintance with the subject, and his numerous and valuable publications relating thereto, of expressing opinions on the yellow fever. Dr. Thomas arrived at New Orleans in 1818, and having resided there up to the present time, has had opportunities of witnessing the several occurrences of this dreadful disease in the interim. Of these he gives us a summary account, preceded by a topographical description of New Orleans by Dr. Picornell, which we shall now proceed to notice.

The city of New Orleans is situated on the left shore of the Mississippi, in 29° 57′ N. latitude, and 10° 44′ 10″ from Washington. Its population is upwards of thirty thousand. Cleanliness in the streets is very much neglected: Animal and vegetable substances are constantly left to lie in a state of putrefaction. This filth, together with that collected under bridges, and the rotten wood of a great many raised ways, give out, especially in the spring and summer months, very dangerous effluvia. In times of drought, the dust which collects is very great, and affections of the throat and eyes are very common. As soon as it rains, are formed those numerous marshes, each of which becomes a focus of pestiferous exhalations. These evils are entirely owing to the streets not being paved, a circumstance which has been proved to be the cause of diseases in the cities of Europe, and other regions. The houses are not built in a manner conducive to salubrity. Bed-chambers are not sufficiently capacious, and they are for the most part on the ground-floor, and hence not sufficiently elevated to be free from inundations, and the permananent humidity of the soil. The construction of chimneys is very defective. They consume much wood, afford little heat, and smoke very much. Some are exposed to the currents of air, so that delicate persons are liable to suffer from them. The yards are so filthy, that M. Picornell exclaims: "J'entre dans les cours: là je suis saisi d'horreur." The privies are very badly constructed, so that the foul air arising from them is confined, and stagnates round the dwelling-houses, and mixing with the other atmospherical causes of disease, renders them more pernicious in their effects. The manner in which privies are emptied, is also condemned by our author. He recommends D'Arcet's method of rendering privies inodorous; (See Dictionnaire des Sciences Médicales, Tome XXVII. Art. *Lutrines*, p. 304.) Another source of mischief is the too early occupation of newly built houses, the moist lime in which absorbs too much oxygen, and thus renders the atmosphere within the house unfit for respiration. M. Picornell takes occasion to point out the great impropri-

ety of sleeping in apartments recently white-washed. These were formerly supposed to be unhealthy on account of dangerous exhalations proceeding from the lime; but since chemistry has been more fully understood, the cause is referred with greater propriety to the withdrawing of oxygen by the lime from the ambient air.

New Orleans is situated in low ground, which has little inclination, and which is surrounded on all sides by stagnant waters. Marshes, ditches are every where to be seen, and they are generally covered by damp fogs and vapours, and on the coming on of drought, form so many foci for the development of noxious miasms. These sources are necessarily multiplied after the inundations of the Mississippi.

In addition to these causes of evil, Dr. P. adduces the existence of various manufactories, such as those for soap and candles, tanneries, &c. of slaughter-houses, and provision stores, all which, whether or not we agree with our author as to their agency in producing yellow fever, we must admit should be beyond the pale of a crowded population, if we have no more than mere comfort in view.

A cemetery is next adverted to. Dr. Picornell thinks that emanations from dead bodies not only render prevailing diseases more intense, but even generate contagious diseases, of which the ravages are most frightful. This opinion, it is well known, has long been entertained by the learned physician to whom this book is inscribed, and who has furnished the public with a highly interesting volume in its support.* Notwithstanding this weight of sentiment, we must frankly state our doubts whether church-yards are, properly speaking, sources of epidemic fevers. That concentrated effluvia from dead bodies long confined in vaults will be pernicious to those suddenly exposed to them, we do not deny; their effects in producing asphyxia and other affections of the nervous system, are too palpable and well evidenced. This is very dif-

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* An Exposition of the Dangers of Interment in Cities, &c. &c. By Felix Pascalis, M.D. New-York. 1823.

ferent, however, from the effect of febrific miasms, which we do not think have ever been clearly or satisfactorily traced to this source. At the same time we are free to confess that our individual taste and wishes are all in favour of having our cemeteries without the inhabited districts of our cities. And to this inclination we are confident that all the finer feelings of our nature with respect to the seclusion and the solemn solitude which should accompany the mansion of the dead, will lend their aid. At the same time, feelings equally refined and sacred will incline many to prefer sepulture in burial grounds already occupied by the bodies of their relatives and friends. And these feelings we would not destroy or oppose. Yet any one who will take the trouble to consider the natural progress of events in a growing city, must perceive the necessity which will one day exist of putting a temporary check to these feelings, however laudable and worthy of indulgence. And it therefore becomes a matter of some importance to decide whether we shall entail this evil on our posterity, who will more extensively feel it than we can, or whether we shall consent, while it is within our own power, to remove the dead from our cities to such places without them as we ourselves may choose for the deposition of our kindred clay. By this method all feelings may be harmonized and consulted, and we shall have conferred a lasting benefit on those who are to succeed us, and have left an honourable monument of our respect for the dead, and our solicitude for the living.

Our author next enters upon the consideration of the condition of the hospitals and jails, in which the importance of clinical observations, and the accuracy of Broussais's theories, and the views of Fodère relating to foul air in prisons, are largely discussed.

The means for ameliorating the condition of New Orleans are,

1st. The establishment of a board of health, composed in part at least of physicians.

2dly. The opening of canals for the effectual draining of the water.

3dly. Enlightening the public mind on the subject.

4thly. The establishment of a most rigid police of health.

We now come to the second part—the consideration of yellow fever.

In regard to the name, Dr. Thomas prefers that of *ardent fever* to any other. In this it will be perceived he is supported by many high authorities, among whom we may specially mention Mosely, whose views of yellow fever are in our estimation singularly correct. Dr. T. takes occasion to condemn Chabert's opinion in relation to the spasmodic nature of this disease, and his recommendation of opium, as the best remedy to be employed in its treatment. Dr. Chabert, we are here informed, lived in the country at a distance from the seat of the disease!

Etiology. Intense heat combined with moisture, is the prominent cause enumerated by most authors. That yellow fever occurs under their conjoint influence, our author does not deny, but he asks, is their union indispensably necessary to its production? We have a great number of proofs to the contrary, in the fact that this disease repeatedly occurs in places remarkable for their drought. Such are Vera-Cruz, Pensacola, St. Louis Bay, Barcelona, &c. &c. It is on the supposition of their essential influence in *originating* yellow fever, that contagionists have so much insisted on the necessity of attributing to importation and contagion, the occurrence of the disease in places where their presence cannot be suspected. Drought in very hot weather, occurring after frequent rains, is considered by our author as the primary cause. Then animal and vegetable decomposition takes place with malignant effects.

The turning up of the ground in and about the city, is the next cause assigned by M. Thomas, of the occurrence of yellow fever. Before 1796, this disease had never been observed in New Orleans; the city, then small, being surrounded by trees which obstructed the diffusion of emanations from the soil, and in fact absorbed them. About this year the improvements commenced, and with them may be dated as coeval, the origin of yellow fever. Our author next notices

other causes common to every locale of the disease, and appertaining to the pre-disposition of the individuals attacked by the disease, such as plethora, a robust habit, want of acclimation, &c. &c.

The third part treats of the invasion, symptoms, development, termination, and treatment of yellow fever. We shall confine ourselves to the last, not having room for the other points.

Bleeding is first insisted on, and the success which attended its employment in the hands of Dr. Marshall, formerly Secretary of the Medical Society of New-Orleans, particularly referred to. This physician was in the habit of having recourse to the lancet at the very invasion of the disease; he plunged the arm in warm water as soon as he had opened a vein, and let the blood flow till all pain of the head was removed. This he repeated if the pain returned.

The next means recommended by M. Thomas, is the *application of moxa* to the epigastric region, and the length of the spinal marrow. Rubefaciants and blisters are recommended also to the same regions.

Laxatives are undoubtedly proper. The following formula is given:

℞.	Nitrat. potass.	ʒij.
	Sulphat. Sod.	ʒvi.
	Acidul. tart. potass.	ʒiij.
	Acetat. potass.	gr. xxiv.

Dissolve in a bottle of warm water. A glass of this solution to be taken every one or two hours till it operates.

To restrain vomiting, acetic ether is recommended in doses of seven or eight drops. This treatment, it will be perceived, is proper for the early stage only, and must undergo modifications proportioned to the degree of changed action in the subsequent periods of the disease. Mild tonics, the mineral acids, and various anti-emetics are now called for. Symptoms must in general be attended to as they rise, and beyond this, little can be done.

The third part contains an account of cases on which we have not room to comment. We therefore close this analysis with the hope that it has not been altogether uninteresting to our readers.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

A Physiological Essay on Digestion. By Nathan R. Smith, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the University of Vermont. New-York. E. Bliss and E. White. 1825. 8vo. pp. 93.

We have just received this essay, and are unable to express any opinion of its merits; but from the reputation which the author enjoys for talents and industry, we are inclined to form favourable anticipations thereof.

Memoir of the Discovery of a Specific Medicine for the cure and prevention of the Yellow Fever, Plague, Malignant and Pestilential Fevers; with documents, authenticated by the results of successful experiments, performed by order of the government and authorities of the city of Havana. By John James Giraud, M. D. of Baltimore, formerly Surgeon to the Royal Marines, and subsequently Brevet Surgeon Major to the King of France, for the Admiralty of *Cape Française.* Baltimore, pp. 23. 1825.

> ——————————A medicine,
> Of rare and prov'd effects; such as his reading
> And manifest experience had collected
> For general sovereignty.
>
> *Shakspeare.*

We hope we may be allowed to make a few observations on the wonderful discovery of Dr. Giraud's "limpid, inodorous, tasteless, non-purgative, non-emetic, anti-pestilential and specific liquid, for the cure and prevention of the plague, yellow fever, putrid, bilious, inflammatory fever, &c." without drawing down upon us professional wrath or editorial denunciation. This specific, which our author avers will cure the yellow fever "quasi carmine magico," in three or four days, and is a complete prophylactic throughout the whole course of an epidemic, has its curative virtues attested not only by the certificates of ninety-nine individuals who suffered from the yellow fever in 1800, and were cured out of the one hundred and three of the "Inventor's" patients; but by the affidavit of the Doctor himself, "that it is a certain and specific remedy in all cases whatsoever; the certificates of fifteen merchants of the city of Baltimore, that his specific is far from an imposition on the public," and the statements of Governors, Health Commissioners, &c. &c.

What a weight of evidence is here! Even Swaim's Panacea, backed by the certificates of old women, hypochondriacs, doctors and professors, which was to cure all the maladies "that flesh is heir to," falls into the back ground in comparison with this precious liquid. Quarantine regulations will hereafter be rendered unnecessary, and the long continued discussion upon contagion will lose its practical utility; and the hobby by whose prancings some individuals have acquired an ephemeral notoriety will incontinently in consequence, "bolt the course." In this discovery we would recommend the Corporation to dispense with the services of the resident physician and health commissioner, and to make an immediate purchase of a sufficiency of this infallible remedy to secure the city from future pestilence.

The Medical Recorder of original papers and Intelligence in Medicine and Surgery. Conducted by Samuel Colhoun, M. D. &c. &c. No. 29 for January, 1825.

The New-England Journal of Medicine and Surgery, and Collateral Branches of Science. Conducted by Walter Channing, Jun. M. D. and John Ware, M. D. Third Series, No. 1. Vol. II.

Practical Illustrations of Typhus Fever and of Inflammatory Diseases, &c. &c. By John Armstrong, Physician to the Fever Institution of London. With notes by an American Physician.

The new edition of this celebrated work is enriched by many notes adapting it to the practice of this country, and to the present state of science, which greatly enhance its value to the American practitioner. We are glad to notice that the exploded doctrines of contagion, the views relating to which are calculated in the original work to mislead the student, are duly noticed in this edition by the American editor.

SELECTIONS.

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Experiments at Paris on Acupuncturation.—The following is a letter we have just received from a distinguished scientific man at Paris.

Acupuncturation has been recently often tried and much talked of in this country; but the results of a number of experiments, conducted upon any thing like scientific principles, have not been stated publicly (we believe) by any medical man of character. Acupuncturation, as it is practised in England, is indeed merely empirical. The results of Mr. Cloquet's

experiments, if they are accurately stated, go far to reduce it to a science, and give us a glimpse of an important discovery, viz: the proximate cause of pain in disease. It may be necessary to state that Mr. Cloquet stands very high in his profession at Paris.

PARIS, Dec. 18, 1824.

DEAR SIR—Jules Cloquet, Surgeon to St. Louis's Hospital in Paris, has been trying the effects of *acupuncturation* (sticking a needle through a part affected with pain,) an old process employed in China and Japan, taken up and laid aside at different periods in Europe, and that has never been properly attended to. The success he has met with has excited general attention, both from the miraculous cures he has performed, and from the singular phenomena that attend the operation, as they are exhibited, not only by the patient, but the operator, and as tending to prove the presence of a fluid analogous to electricity, which would seem to be the principal agent in the disease and in the cure. He allowed me to make an extract from the paper he read last Monday to the Academy of Sciences. I shall refrain from any observations on the subject, till it is properly examined; which will be the case when the commission, appointed by the Academy of Sciences, consisting of Amher, Dumeril, and Majendie, make their report.

M. Cloquet's experiments have been performed on about two hundred patients, chiefly at St. Louis's Hospital, in the presence of students and physicians. He gives the following account of the effects of the operation.

1. Acupuncturation acts immediately and constantly on pain, whatever be its cause.

2. Of those pains, some disappear without returning: others re-appear after an uncertain period; but they are almost always weaker than before the operation, and may be removed again by a fresh puncture.

3. Some pains are only diminished in intensity, without entirely disappearing.

The introduction of the needle is in general slightly painful, especially when the operation is performed for acute pain. At an uncertain time after the introduction of the needle, the patient experiences numbness, stupor in the part affected, or slight shivering in the direction of the nerve. There is generally formed on the skin about the needle an erythematous mark, of a rose colour, more or less vivid, generally round, but sometimes broader on one side of the needle than on the other, some times longer and extended. This discoloration of the skin is very vivid, and takes place in some patients immediately after the operation; in others, it is less intense, and does not appear till after four, five, or six minutes, a quarter of an hour, or half an hour. In some patients it does not appear at all—in others it is replaced by a circular swelling which slightly raises the skin; the more extensive the erythematous inflammation is, and the sooner it appears, the disappearance of the pain is more sudden and marked. At the end of an uncertain period, from one minute to half an hour, the pain appears to concentrate itself round the needle, the patient feels in the place which is pierc-

ed heat or shootings, more or less vivid, similar to those produced by the electric fluid. Sometimes new pains appear unexpectedly in a part distant from the seat of the puncture, but they are often removed immediately, by the introduction of a fresh needle in the part where they appear. The pain which the patient feels from the needle is continual, or returns at various intervals. Generally the needle should not be withdrawn, until after it has ceased to produce pain. Almost always, when the projecting part of the needle is touched with a metallic conductor, or with the end of the finger moistened, the patient feels in the puncture the most vivid shooting, even from the lightest touch, as long as it is continued. The pain for which the operation is performed subsides in proportion.

If a metallic conductor is applied to the needle, and the other extremity is immersed in a vessel of salt water, the action is much more immediate, the pain felt near the needle is more violent, and the numbness of the part more considerable. M. Cloquet has been sometimes even obliged to withdraw the conductor for a time to relieve the very acute shooting which the patient feels in the direction of the needle. If the operator keeps his finger on the needle or the conductor, he himself soon feels a slight numbness in the first joint of the phalanges; if he continues the experiment, the numbness extends to the whole of the finger, to a portion of the hand, and even to the fore-arm. In some cases, the writer has felt involuntary muscular contractions, very rapid, not painful, in several of the muscles of the fore-arm, and of the arm. Every time that the needle is touched, a slight shock is felt like that produced by the galvanic battery. These phenomena are in general the more marked, in proportion as the pain of the patient is acute; in some cases they cannot be observed at all. It is not unusual to see the patient experience the general phenomena during and after the acupuncturation; often partial sweats more or less abundant accompany the operation; some lose the sensation of cold which they had before in the part affected; others faint away, but this is very rare. Almost all experience a marked improvement, change the expression of their physiognomy completely, and pass in a very short time from the most painful anxiety of countenance, and the most profound depression of spirits, to a state of calm and often even of the most remarkable cheerfulness. The motions and functions of the part affected soon become more or less perfectly restored. When a needle of highly polished steel has been used, it is observed that during the operation it becomes oxidated; or at least the point, to a distance of four or five lines, becomes of a violet blue, brilliant, iridiated as if it had passed through the fire; the portion of it which had been buried in the soft parts is blackened, roughened, dulled, frequently marked with circles, alternately rainbow-tinted, bright, blackish, and dull. The portion which remained out of the flesh was clean and shining; it had not lost any of its polish. These phenomena of the oxidation of the needle are in general the more marked, in proportion to the intensity of the pain, and to the length of time that the nee-

dle has remained in the part. They appear, but less constantly and distinctly, when a needle is plunged into living muscles free from pain; but they are not observed when the experiment is made on the dead body. A puncture, for an instant, or one only continued one or two minutes, produces effects less marked, or none at all. It is not till after some time, varying from two minutes to an hour, that these effects are observed. When one needle will not produce the effect desired, it is obtained by the application of two or three more needles, either together or consecutively. In general the needles should not be withdrawn till they have entirely ceased to be painful, and till the pain for which they have been applied has for some time subsided. The duration of the acupuncturation should be proportioned to the obstinacy of the disease. M. Cloquet has not yet continued the application of it beyond eight hours, and at this period there remained no trace of inflammatory swelling in the vicinity of the needle, and sometimes even the erythematous circle has faded or disappeared altogether. He has used acupuncturation, 1. In muscular rheumatism, acute and chronic; it has then produced very marked effects; the greater part of his patients have recovered after two or three applications. In some cases he has been obliged to operate even as much as five or six times. 2. In rheumatism of the fibres, the same result. 3. In rheumatism of the joints, acute and chronic; white swellings in the joints: the effects less decided: marked relief in some cases: many cases of cure after several applications of the needle. 4. In neuralgia, facial, dental, orbital, and sub-orbital; and in obstinate headaches: the effects were very speedy—most of the patients cured after one or two operations. 5. In deep-seated contusions, recent, or of long standing, many in the parietes of the chest and the thoracic viscera, effects very speedy—complete abstraction of pain, or at least great diminution of its intensity; cure after several operations, some were after one. 6. Inflammations, opthalmias, pleurisy, inflammations of the bowels and other parts, of the skin, chronic pains of the abdomen. Diminution or cessation of pain, diminution or cessation of inflammatory symptoms. 7. In paralysis, and in mercurial tremblings. No effect at all, unless when these diseases were complicated with pains. 8. In cramps and muscular contraction, effect in general prompt. The author says that he has practised acupuncturation more than five hundred times in almost all parts of the body, without having ever met with a single accident. In fact, the needle, introduced with caution, merely pushes aside the fibres of the tissues, which reunite after the needle is extracted. In the greater number of cases not a single drop of blood flowed after the withdrawing of the needle.—*Paris Journal.*

Effect of Ptyalism.—By a process of reasoning into which our limits will not permit us to enter, Mr. Arnott has been led to conclude, that the well-known effect of mercury in arresting acute diseases, as hepatitis and

and dysentery, is owing principally, if not solely, to the counter-irritation produced in the mouth by complete ptyalism. He considers that doctrine erroneous, or at all events, overstrained, which attributes the cure of acute diseases to the general action of mercury on the whole vascular and secretory systems, and the consequent depletion which ensues. Neither does he count for any thing the specific action, supposed by many to be set up in the system, and to supersede other morbid actions going on previously. The *facts* on which the present doctrine of counter-irritation turns are as follow: —On a voyage from India, many of the ship's crew were affected with dysentery. "After trying most of the other remedies that prove serviceable in such cases," says Mr. A. "recourse was obliged to be had to complete mercurial ptyalism before the disease would yield, and in several instances no other practice was followed. In the last five cases that occurred, I tried the effect of powerfully irritating the mouth with powdered capsicum diffused in water, for which its recently prepared tincture was afterwards substituted, as possessing great strength." The patients put a tea-spoonful of the medicine into the mouth, every five or ten minutes, as the irritation ceased, and retained it until the mouth became filled with saliva. This process was continued with little intermission during the day, or as long as was requisite to afford relief. Great heat and smarting were produced in the mouth, with vesication, at different points of its lining membrane, and the saliva was copiously secreted. The effects were these. "The colicky pains were soon relieved. The dejections soon decreased in frequency; and in one instance, after the employment of the irritant for about twelve hours, there occurred the sudden change in the bowels from irritability to such a torpid state, that, for two days together, there was but one scanty evacuation." In another instance the patient, who applied in the morning for relief from an irritation that appeared to exist both in the mucous membrane of the respiratory and digestive organs, recovered so completely in about twelve hours' application of the capsicum, as to be able to resume his occupation on board, free of complaint, on the third day. "In one case the patient had already taken a large dose of calomel, in about six hours after commencing the use of the irritating tincture, and twelve hours after the exhibition of the calomel, his breath had the mercurial fetor, and he was soon affected with severe mercurial ptyalism. This was the more remarkable, as when the same man complained of dysentery in a former part of the voyage, it was with difficulty that ptyalism could be produced."

The above are the main facts which are adduced by our author, in support of his theory of local irritation superseding or arresting a general disease. "The above trials," Mr. A. adds, "are, at least, sufficient to show that powerful irritation of the mouth is adequate to the removal of an inflammatory disturbance of the intestines, and consequently, that the same measure should be of advantage in other analogous diseases."

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brought forward by Mr. Arnott. But we cannot help thinking, that he attaches more importance to the ptyalism—that is, the irritation of the mouth, than it deserves. From what we have seen in others and felt in ourselves, we should be inclined to consider the mere affection of the salivary glands, as acting a subordinate part in the removal of a severe affection, as of dysentery for instance. What induces us to dissent from Mr. Arnott, is the repeated observation of dysentery and other diseases abating *before* there was any considerable pain or irritation of the mouth. Every one who has suffered ptyalism, must recollect that the first swelling of the gums and rush of saliva to the mouth are productive of very little inconvenience; though it is at this precise period and sometimes before, that the dysenteric symptoms abate. It is after the ptyalism is a day or two established, and especially when ulceration takes place in the gums, cheeks, and tongue, that the penance begins to be felt. We repeat it, that the first day or two of ptyalism is accompanied by very little irritation, comparatively, and consequently that we do not think the subsidence of the dysenteric affection is owing to counter-irritation in the mouth.—*Johnson's Med. Chir. Review.*

Dissection of Lord Byron.—A foreign Journal (*Gazette de Santé*, 25th August, 1824) gives the following minutes of the *post mortem* examination of our illustrious countryman and poet—Lord Byron. From this dissection, it is manifest that his Lordship lost his life, in all human probability, by his inveterate prejudice against blood-letting.

1*mo.* The bones of the cranium were extremely hard, and without any trace of suture or diploe, resembling, in that respect, the skull of an octogenarian.

2*ndo.* The dura mater was so firmly attached to the internal surface of the cranium as to be separated by great force only. The vessels of this tissue were much injected. It was adherent, in several places, to the pia mater.

3*tio.* The vessels of the medulla oblongata were finely injected with blood, and the part itself red and swelled. There were about two ounces of sero-sanguineous fluid in the different ventricles.

4*to.* The medullary substance of the brain greatly exceeded its usual relative proportion to the cortical, and was of very firm consistence. *The cerebrum and cerebellum weighed six medicinal pounds!*

5*to.* The lungs were sound, but of a gigantic size—"d'une grandeur presque gigantique."

6*to.* About an ounce of serum in the cavity of the pericardium. The heart was larger than ordinary, and its muscular substance relaxed.

7*mo.* The liver was smaller than usual, as were also the biliary ducts and gall-bladder.

8*vo.* The kidneys were large and sound.

From this report the editor of the Journal above mentioned concludes, that "a small bleeding at the beginning, or a very copious one at the height

of the disease, would have saved his Lordship's life—but he obstinately refused to consent to the operation." This may be true; but we do not clearly see the foundation of the editor's next conclusion, namely, that Lord Byron could only have lived a few years more at any rate—" à cause de son excessive susceptibilitié qui le rendait malade aisément, soit à cause de la violence de ses passions, de son travail excessif, soit a cause de sa negligence a employer des remèdes contre son extrême constipation." But M. Miguel ought to know that the passions (excepting *avarice*, to which his Lordship was not prone) subside with advancing age—that the labours of the intellect slacken with the passions—and that we very frequently see more attention paid to *health* and the preservation of *life*, as the one becomes enfeebled and the other draws towards a conclusion. We can perceive nothing therefore in Lord Byron's physical organization, to preclude the prospect of long life, in the absence of those accidents to which the best constitutions are liable.—*Ibid.*

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*Abscess in the Parietes of the Stomach.**—A curious case of this kind is related by Surgeon Callow. A man officiated as hospital cook, in the 96th regiment, till the day of his admission, thirty-four hours prior to his death—no antecedent indisposition being complained of, except loss of appetite, sickness, and diminution of strength. When received into the hospital, he had violent pain in epigastrio, incessant vomiting, quick pulse, cool skin, brown and dry tongue, constipated bowels. In a short time the pain shifted to, and became fixed at the umbilicus, assuming the character of enteritis. In twenty-four hours, one hundred ounces of blood were abstracted, locally and generally; but the patient suddenly expired in a violent fit of vomiting, having passed a quantity of purulent matter by stool.

Dissection.—Diffused inflammation over the small intestines. A quantity of bland pus floating among the viscera, and issuing from a lacerated aperture in the small curvature of the stomach, around which the coats of this viscus were in a state of disorganization. All the other viscera were sound. It is supposed by Mr. Callow, and with reason, that the pus must have been contained in a cyst. It amounted in the whole to more than seven pounds. While in the cyst, it appears to have excited little irritation; but the moment the cyst burst and the matter came in contact with the mucous surfaces, they were excited into a state of inflammation.

The dissection of the above case nearly cost Mr. Callow (an able and meritorious medical officer) his life. The thumb of the right hand was pricked by a spicula of bone, while being immersed in the purulent matter. At 12 o'clock of the next night, while on a journey to London, Mr. C. was attacked with acute pain in the thumb, and soon after with a shivering fit. The journey was persevered in, although the pain invaded three of the other fingers,

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* Surgeon Callow, 96th Regiment. Med. Journal, No. 306.

and violent rigors rapidly succeeded each other. Arrived at the end of his journey, he retired to a warm bed, and medical assistance was summoned. A deadly coldness prevailed for some hours, more especially in the lower extremities, which were nearly destitute of circulation. The hand swelled, and the pain extended up the fore-arm. A violent reaction succeeded the cold stage, and the sensations during this paroxysm were of a most insupportable kind—"bearing a stronger affinity to an attack of hydrophobia than to any other disease to which it could be assimilated." The head-ache was so violent "that the brain appeared on fire," while rapidly succeeding spasms of the diaphragm threatened to suspend respiration. Deglutition of fluids was exceedingly difficult, while thirst was excessive. Vivid red streaks in the course of the lymphatics indicated the progress of absorption. The warm bath produced much relief, while leeches to the arm diminished pain, for a time—then all the symptoms became exasperated. The same measures were again and again put in force, with temporary benefit. The axillary glands swelled. A paroxysm took place every twelve hours regularly, at which periods there was much pain in the right side of the thorax, attended with difficult respiration. The progress of the absorption seemed stopped at the bend of the fore-arm. After the fourth day, there was great disposition to the formation of depôts of matter in the arm, but fortunately they did not take place. After a week, some amendment took place, though slowly. At the time of writing (five weeks from the accident) the functions were much deranged, and Mr. Callow has lost the use of his hand.

We congratulate him on the preservation of life. Few have lived to tell the tale, after being in his condition.—*Ibid.*

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*Partial Intermittent Fever.**—Intermittent diseases present the most inexplicable phenomena of any class of human ailments. They are the rock on which *systems* split—while they are the glory of *practical medicine. Les fievres intermittentes sont devenues l'écueil des systemes—elles sont la gloire de la médécine d'observation.* Observation would seem to prove that, whereas a regular intermittent affects, during its paroxysms, the whole system, there are numerous other forms of the same disease which fix their seat in a particular part, or point, as it were, of the body, leaving all other organs and parts free. The following is a curious example.

A woman, aged 45 years, who officiated as a nurse, and was of a nervous temperament, complained to our author of an affection of the right arm, to which she had been subject for more than a year. It began with a sense of numbness and tremor of the extremity, which sometimes lasted two hours or more, then a sense of heat occurred—and finally a perspiration broke out over the arm, the whole paroxysm lasting some hours, and leaving the patient in a languid condition for a few hours more, after which she felt

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* Fh. Des-alleurs. Revue Med. Mai, 1324.

quite well, till another paroxysm took place. The intervals, at first, were three or four days, but latterly they have returned at shorter periods. She had tried a multitude of remedies, without receiving the least benefit. Our author first gave emetics, followed by bitter and antispasmodic drugs, but to no purpose. The appetite was somewhat improved, but the local affection remained. He now requested to be present during one of the attacks, and found as follows: the patient was sitting, her countenance somewhat depressed, but, otherwise, apparently in her ordinary condition. Her right arm, though well covered and near the fire, felt to herself as cold as ice.—Its temperature was not much decreased to the tact of others, except the hand. A tremor of the limb now came on, and was pretty violent. The pulse was nearly natural. In half an hour the arm became red, and the sensation of cold went off, changing to that of intense heat, though still but little altered in real temperature, till a quarter of an hour had elapsed, when the heat was very sensible to the touch of the by-stander. In half an hour more the whole extremity was covered with perspiration—the patient's spirits rose, and in the course of another hour the paroxysm was over. At the close of the attack the patient passed a pint of high-coloured urine, cloudy, but not sedimentous.

Our author now became convinced that the disease was a local or partial intermittent, and determined to treat it accordingly. The bark was therefore administered. It first had the effect of mitigating, and ultimately, of entirely stopping the paroxysms. The patient has since continued in good health.—*Ibid.*

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*Laryngitis—Tracheotomy.**—Inflammation about the larynx, and especially about the glottis, performs the work of destruction so quickly, if not arrested, that many lives have been lost for want of the operation now under consideration. Inflammations of this kind are often too far advanced to be checked by depletion, when the practitioner is called in; but if respiration can be carried on, for a time, we are pretty sure of subduing the original disease, and thus snatching a victim from a most cruel death. Indeed, we cannot conceive a more horrible situation than that of a person whose air-passage is gradually closing up, and who is, consequently, suffering a protracted death by suffocation!

Case. Mary Dunne, ætat. 30, admitted into the Whitworth Hospital, 25th October, 1823; had been affected with a troublesome cough, since the latter end of August, which had been increased by renewed exposure to cold. On the 21st October, oppression, difficulty of breathing, dull pain about the region of the larynx, and down to the sternum, were added. No appropriate remedies had been employed. On the evening of admission, the cough was frequent, the expectoration tough and copious, respiration

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* Dr. John Crampion—Mr. Carmichael. Dublin Transactions, v. 4.

difficult, and attended with a hoarse brazen sound—pulse acce erated. It was found necessary to draw blood from the arm, which gave instant relief, and she passed a tranquil night. 26th. The dyspnœa returned. Repetition of the bleeding did not bring the expected relief. 27th. All things getting worse.—Sound of the cough is like that of croup—the respiration difficult, and obstructed by much viscid mucus—pulse 120—pain in the larynx and sternum. Six leeches to the larynx—an emetic of ipecacuan—pills of calomel aud ipecacuan. She was a little relieved by the leeches and emetic. 28th. Worse to-day—eight more leeches—"From the report at noon, it appeared that she felt some temporary alleviation after the leeches; her countenance, however, was quite livid, and expressive of extreme anxiety, with a look of wild despair; her eyes protruded; respiration was nearly impracticable; the extremities, as well as the whole surface, were becoming cold; pulse fluttering and feeble, above 130. She was, however, in perfect possession of her intellect, and implored that something might be done to afford her relief under the extreme urgency of her suffering." It was evident that nothing but an operation would now afford relief. Indeed, we think the knife was resorted to quite late enough.

Operation. Mr. Carmichael arrived, and almost immediately proceeded to work, judging that the period of affording relief, even by this measure, was probably past.

We shall give but a very brief description of Mr. Carmichael's operation, as it is now frequently performed, though not without some difficulty. An incision, an inch and a half in length, from the lower edge of the thyroid gland, was made through the integuments, and then between the long muscles, till the trachea was laid bare. This was happily performed with the loss of only a few drops of blood, "notwithstanding the difficulty which the perpetual motion of the trachea opposes in a person incessantly gasping for breath." Two or three rings of the trachea were then divided, and the opening widened by means of a large pair of sharp-pointed scissors, such as Mr. C. employs for the operation of hare-lip. The patient coughed up a large quantity of viscid phlegm through the opening, and seemed much relieved, the appearance of suffocation being quite removed. Our author feels satisfied that a simple incision into the trachea, and the insertion of a tube, would have been productive of no benefit. The grounds on which he makes this assertion do not appear valid to us—and simply because we have seen the division and insertion succeed in as bad a case, (nay a worse one) than that of Mr. Carmichael's. One positive fact is, therefore, worth fifty negative ones. The slit in the trachea soon accommodates itself to the shape of a tube—and if the tube comes out now and then when the patient is expectorating, it is of no consequence. It can be easily replaced. We make this observation, because we know, from experience, that, in many cases, it would be totally impossible to cut out a lozenge of trachea, as recommended by Mr. Carmichael—where, for instance, the parts are swelled

and inflamed from the application of blisters, as is often the case; and where the tube lies an inch deep among working muscles, while the trachea itself is in constant motion. Under such circumstances, we have known a simple slit produce such instantaneous relief that the patient fell fast asleep the moment the opening was made.

The patient did well, and only required great attention in clearing away the ropy mucus from the opening in the trachea. The wound closed in a fortnight, and the cure was complete. The promptitude and dexterity with which Mr. Carmichael performed the operation are very praise-worthy.

We would first remark, that the system of local depletion and counter-irritation pursued in the first instance, when the patient entered the hospital, appears to us to have been very inefficient. No disease requires such decisive depletion, local and general, as laryngitis—and we appeal to the record, whether this decisive depletion was put in execution. From the speedy cure, it is evident that there was nothing more than mere inflammation to contend with here—and we are not without a suspicion that it might have been quelled some days before the operation, by very active treatment.—*Ibid.*

MISCELLANIES.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons in this city closed their annual session on the 28th February. We wish that we could see a prospect of an amelioration in the condition of this Institution. Under proper management, what might not be its usefulness, and who could set limits to the extent of its reputation!

We have received a copy of the Transactions of the State Medical Society, containing the address of the able and learned ex-President, Dr. Coventry. We shall notice this pamphlet in our next.

Public Dissections in France.—A few weeks ago we attempted a plain unvarnished statement of the excessive difficulties attending the study of practical Anatomy in the United States—a country deservedly celebrated for freedom in every thing except giving liberty to *Slaves*, and facilities to *Schools of Medicine*. We are as great sticklers for *law* as our most fastidious neighbours of the bench, but are completely of Alexander Stevens' opinion, that "it is like bad weather, and most people are glad when they get out of it." Yet so piteously has the storm beaten of late on some of our brethren, and so severely and unjustly have they suffered under the present acts and *re-acts* of this commonwealth, in consequence of their anatomical perseverance, that it has roused, in every liberal mind, a spirit of indigna-

tion against such *narrow-minded policy; policy*, so mis-called, which had its origin in ignorance, and which has a direct tendency to destroy the very foundation of the healing art.

It is our present object to lay before our readers a statement of the national patronage bestowed by France on her Surgeons and her Seminaries for diffusing medical knowledge. Napoleon, who always studied the interest of general science, gave the first spring to the profession in France, and the continuation, by his successors, of the system which he so wisely adopted, has raised the reputation and extended the usefulness of the Surgeons of France, far beyond those of any other country on the globe.

The manner in which the dissecting tables are supplied, is this (and such is the acknowledged importance of dissections, that a man would be thought insane to deny the utility of the practice, or speak disrespectfully of those devotees of science, who are so ardently engaged in the pursuit of this valuable and absolutely indispensable knowledge:)—there are about twenty hospitals within the city of Paris and its purlieus, attached to some of which are large halls, each about one hundred feet in length, and plentifully furnished with convenient tables, and all the necessary apparatus of knives, &c. for dissecting, and each student has his particular place, for a trifling sum, where he may study and contemplate the complex machinery of man, undisturbed and at his leisure. A cart, (made somewhat in the form of the tumbrel which carries the cartridges of artillery,) goes to each hospital, every morning, to receive the bodies of those who may have died during the preceding day and night; which bodies, when collected, are carried to a hall called *salle des morts*, where any person wishing for a subject, may go and select for himself by paying five francs, about one dollar. After each person, engaged in dissection, is supplied, the remaining bodies are carried at a distance from the city and buried. No friends lament this custom, no ignorance grumbles at it, no bigotry wages war with it. Now among us, the bodies of those degraded wretches who die in our alms-houses, unknown and unregretted, the victims of intemperance and every species of debauchery, would answer all the necessities of our schools, and one would think this would be their legal destination;—but no,—only touch with a scalpel the cuticle of a deceased Lascar, who died under the gnawing ravages of the *lues venerea*, and then comes the iron grasp of our boasted laws—laws which in other respects are so liberal, and which are *said* to "cherish all the useful sciences."

The Schools of Medicine in Ireland, as well as those of France, are furnished with subjects by a special law, and this facility has not only been the direct means of developing the talents of many eminently distinguished physicians and surgeons, who otherwise might have been mere itinerant desperadoes in the profession, but it has raised the character of the profession in the Emerald Isle, and induced *our* enterprising young men to become pupils in a foreign country, not only to their own pecuniary embarrassment,

ment, but also to the astonishment of the civilized world, who have always heard of *America* as the home of science as well as of liberty.—*Boston Med. Intel.*

Auburn Medical School.—The attention of the Medical Faculty and community generally, who are friendly to the establishment of a Medical School at Auburn, N. Y. is solicited in favor of the present efforts to prepare the way for a permanent institution. The course of lectures for this year will commence on the first day of March next. On Anatomy and Operations in Surgery, by James Douglass, M. D.—On Theory and Practice of Medicine, by Dr. E. D. Tuttle.—On Obstetrics, by Dr. I. H. Smith.—On Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, by Jedediah Smith, M. D. The object is to *commence* a Medical Institution. Though the courses will be as full and complete as at the Colleges, the fee required will only be such as to defray the actual expenses.

New-York Dispensary.—During the past year, 7635 patients have been admitted into the New-York Dispensary; of whom 6492 were cured—68 died, and 260 remain under attendance. Six thousand and eighty persons have been vaccinated.

Dr. Dewee's New System of Midwifery was about to be re-printed and published in London, and is highly esteemed there.

Ischuria.—Blistering the inside of the thighs has ever been considered the most immediately efficacious remedy for this disease. Dr. Miner, of Connecticut, has recently advanced to us an opinion that *strong sinapisms*, similarly applied, will afford relief in a speedier and easier manner—an opinion which is founded on his personal experience, and if confirmed by further observation, will give us a good substitute for vesication in such cases.

New Work on Spotted Fever.—We are informed that Dr. Miner has completed the manuscript of a work on Spotted Fever, which we hope will soon be laid before the medical public. As a writer, Dr. M. has gained a reputation which promises to be lasting.—The disease which forms the subject of this work, has been recently committing great ravages in Stonington, Conn.

We are astonished to find that our review of the edition of "Thomas's Domestic Medicine" has excited to such an extraordinary degree the sensitiveness of the American editor. We can assure him that we did but express the honest opinion of the whole profession; and this we shall be always ready to do, despite of frowns or reproaches from any quarter whatsoever. We would counsel a little more prudence to offended parties in future: a public and unguarded exhibition of wounded feelings may not only be mistaken for a conscious sense of wrong, but it is actually looked upon as the triumphant evidence of a *successful hit.*

Bill of Mortality for the City and County of New-York, for February.

(From the Inspector's Weekly Report.)

CAUSES OF DEATH.	1st week.	2d week.	3d week.	4th week.	CAUSES OF DEATH.	1st week.	2d week.	3d week.	4th week.
Abscess,	0	0	1	0	Gravel,	0	0	0	1
Apoplexy,	5	3	1	1	Hæmorrhage,	0	0	0	1
Asphyxia,	0	0	1	0	Hæmoptysis,	0	0	2	0
Asthma,	0	1	1	0	Hives or Croup,	7	4	3	3
Burned,	0	0	2	1	Inflammation of the Brain,	0	2	3	2
Carbuncle,	0	0	0	1	Inflammation of the Chest,	4	8	19	28
Casualty,	3	5	2	5	Inflammation of the Stom.	0	0	1	1
Childbed,	1	1	1	1	Inflammation of the Bowels	2	1	2	2
Cholera Morbus,	0	0	1	0	Inflammation of the Liver,	2	1	0	1
Colic,	0	0	0	1	Inflammation of the Bladder	0	1	0	0
Consumption,	14	21	26	27	Influenza,	1	0	1	5
Convulsions,	3	3	7	7	Insanity,	1	0	0	0
Diarrhœa,	1	1	1	2	Intemperance,	0	1	3	0
Dropsy,	0	4	3	2	Jaundice,	0	0	1	0
Dropsy in the Chest,	2	1	1	1	Marasmus,	1	4	5	5
Dropsy in the Head,	4	2	2	7	Measles,	0	0	1	1
Drowned,	1	0	1	1	Old Age,	2	9	7	14
Dysentery,	0	1	0	0	Palsy,	4	1	3	3
Erysipelas,	0	0	0	1	Rheumatism,	0	2	1	0
Fever,	3	0	2	1	Small Pox,	3	2	2	2
Fever, Intermittent,	0	0	1	0	Sore Throat,	2	1	1	1
Fever, Remittent,	0	0	0	2	Sprue,	0	0	0	2
Fever, Typhus,	0	1	0	4	Still-born,	6	7	4	3
Fever, Scarlet,	0	0	0	1	Whooping Cough,	0	2	3	3
Gout,	0	0	1	0	Worms,	0	1	1	1

	SEX.				AGES.													
	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Under 1 year.	Between 1 & 2	Between 2 & 5	Between 5 & 10	Between 10 & 20	Between 20 & 30	Between 30 & 40	Between 40 & 50	Between 50 & 60	Between 60 & 70	Between 70 & 80	Between 80 & 90	Between 90 & 100	Upwards of 100	TOTAL for the Month.
1st week - -	20	15	13	18	16	4	6	0	5	5	8	13	7	5	2	1	0	0	72
2d week - -	27	30	19	18	20	4	8	4	1	10	11	10	12	2	9	3	0	0	94
3d week - -	44	34	22	18	16	9	10	3	5	18	16	10	15	5	5	6	0	0	118
4th week - -	57	44	24	21	22	7	6	2	7	21	17	20	14	13	11	2	2	2	146
TOTAL - - -	148	123	78	75	74	24	30	9	18	54	52	53	48	25	27	12	2	2	430

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Thoughts on "Phrenology," by T. will appear in our next.